

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 192374
ORIGIN NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 OES-09 /022 R

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EA/J - RICHARD KILPATRICK

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P 311837Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJECT: SPACE SHUTTLE CONTINGENCY PLANNING

REF: TOKYO 13171

1. REFTTEL PARA (A), SHUTTLE ORBITER IS NOT CLASSIFIED AS AIRCRAFT, BUT AS SPACECRAFT. ORBITER COMMUNICATIONS WITH GROUND AFTER EXIT FROM BLACKOUT PERIOD OF RE-ENTRY WILL BE ON 243.0 MHZ. COMMUNICATION ON THIS FREQUENCY WILL BE WITH APPROACH CONTROL AND TOWER FOR LANDING INSTRUCTIONS AND LAST MINUTE UPDATE ON FIELD CONDITIONS.

2. REFTTEL PARA (B), NO PERMANENT PHYSICAL MODIFICATION TO KADENA AIRFIELD WILL BE REQUIRED TO ACCOMMODATE SHUTTLE EMERGENCY LANDING. ONCE SHUTTLE HAS LANDED, PORTABLE MATE/DEMATE STIFF LEG DERRICK AND PERSONNEL WILL BE FLOWN IN AND THE DERRICK ASSEMBLED ON SITE.

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TO ACCOMMODATE THIS STRUCTURE, SOME CONCRETE PADS AND ANCHOR BOLTS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED UPON COMPLETION OF MATING EXERCISE, WITH MODIFIED 747 AIRCRAFT, PORTABLE MATE/DEMATE STIFF LEG DERRICK WILL BE DISASSEMBLED AND RETURNED TO

THE U.S. ANY PROTRUSIONS FROM CONCRETE PADS WOULD, OF COURSE, BE REMOVED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OF NASA RE-

COVERY TEAM.

3. REQUEST GOJ DECISION SOONEST. NASA NEEDS TO PRE-
PARE ON-BOARD COMPUTER PROGRAMS FOR SHUTTLE ORBITER
WITH CONTINGENCY LANDING SITES DATA. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTINGENCY PLANNING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE192374
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: 17/WGBASTEDO:SS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780313-0553
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978072/aaaaabyt.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0cf9e66c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NASA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 13171
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1885803
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPACE SHUTTLE CONTINGENCY PLANNING
TAGS: TSPA
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0cf9e66c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014